

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer having an epoxy or phenolic functionality of greater than 2 and comprising moieties derived from diglycidyl ethers or diglycidyl esters, anhydrides and dihydric phenols.

2. (Currently Amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the diglycidyl ether is selected from the group consisting of the diglycidyl ethers of bisphenol A; 4,4'-sulfonyldiphenol; 4,4'-oxydiphenol; 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone; resorcinol; hydroquinone; 9,9'-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene; 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl and 4,4'-dihydroxy-alpha-methylstilbene.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~epoxy~~ epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the diglycidyl ester is selected from the group consisting of the diglycidyl esters of dicarboxylic acids.

Claim 4 (canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the anhydride is selected from the group consisting of phthalic anhydride, maleic anhydride, tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, 4-methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, methyl-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic anhydride and succinic anhydride.

6. (Currently Amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the anhydride is selected from the group consisting of phthalic anhydride, 4-methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride, tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and succinic anhydride.

7. (Currently Amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the dihydric phenol is selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-isopropylidene bisphenol (bisphenol A), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-ethylmethane, 3,3'-dihydroxy-diphenyldiethylmethane, 3,4'-dihydroxy-diphenylmethylpropylmethane, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyloxide, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-cyanomethane, 4,4'-dihydroxy-biphenyl, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl sulfide, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl sulfone, 2,6-dihydroxynaphthalene, 1,4'-dihydroxynaphthalene, catechol, resorcinol and hydroquinone.

8. (Currently Amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the dihydric phenol is selected from the group consisting of bisphenol A, hydroquinone and mixtures thereof.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claims 12-25 (withdrawn)

26. (Currently Amended) A binder composition comprising the epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1.

Claims 27-29 (withdrawn)

30. (Original) The binder composition of Claim 26 containing pigments, fillers or flow modifiers.

31. (Original) Powder coatings comprising the binder composition of Claim 26.

32. (Reinstated – formerly Claim 4, and currently amended) The epoxy or phenolic functional polyester or polyether ~~polyester/polyether~~ oligomer or polymer of Claim 1 wherein the anhydride is selected from diglycolic anhydride, dichloromaleic anhydride, maleic anhydride, succinic anhydride, glutaric anhydride, citraconic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, tetrabromophthalic anhydride, phthalic

anhydride, tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, tetrachlorophthalic anhydride, 4-methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride, methyl-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic anhydride, 1,8-naphthalic anhydride, trimellitic anhydride and 1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic dianhydride.